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# REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

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Tuesday, September 6. 1709.

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**I**N my last I gave you an Abridgment of the Eruption of the *Swedes* into *Poland*, their erecting, some call it Electing a King there, indeed I cannot call it so — I brought his *Swedish* Majestie into *Muscovy*, in Pursuit of his great Designs against the *Czar* — I touch'd at the Offers made him there for Peace, his refusing them, and pretending to dethrone the *Czar*, his Defeat, Flight, &c.

I shall touch some of these Things again, and particularly speak to the general Conduct of the *Swedes* in this War, and to our Notions of them; in which I shall not pretend to boast over those Gentlemen, who formerly thought themselves better Judges of their Affairs than other Folks; 'tis enough to

see them mistaken, and that the REVIEW told them they were so, when they little thought it would be so evidently made out; nor will they find me speak with one jot more Disrespect of the Person of the King of *Sweden* now, than I did before; I fear'd not his Resentment then, and I scorn to insult any Man's Character for his Misfortunes.

Truth is above the Resentment of Princes, and I thank GOD, I dare write it in the Face of the greatest Prince or Person at home or abroad — I love Truth, and desire to write nothing but Truth, neither did ever write a Word in the whole Course of these Papers, but what I firmly believ'd, and that upon good Grounds, to be Truth.

But

But this by the way. If I can be calmly convinc'd, that any thing I have said in this Paper is either untrue or unjust, I would freely acknowledge it, and ask Pardon for it — — — But to return to the Swedish Affairs.

When the King of Sweden entered Saxony, and by that Surprize brought K. Augustus to submit ; and while he continu'd in that Country to see the Treaty between him and King Augustus fully executed — The Protestants, *Lutheran only*, Inhabitants of Silesia apply themselves to him, complaining that they had for a long Time been oppres'd by the Emperor in the Points of Religion, contrary to the express Conditions of the Treaty of Westphalia, of which the Crown of Sweden was Guarantee — That their Churches had been taken from them, the Revenues of their Clergy alienated, their Schools suppress'd, and in short they were abridg'd in all the Privileges Ecclesiastick, which were stipulated in their Behalf, and conceded by the Emperor in that famous Treaty — And his Majesty being Guarantee of that Treaty, *Quia Rex Successorum*, and being happily come into those Parts, had an Opportunity put into his Hands to reinstate them, and therefore implor'd his Majesty's Assistance to do them Justice, and to demand and obtain a due Execution of the said Treaty of Peace, on which the Liberties of Germany were secur'd.

The King of Sweden, after some Hesitation, finds, that the Silesians have Reason for this Complaint, and in short espouses this Quarrel ; and indeed in Justice and Honour he could do no less, having the Protection of them all committed to him by that Treaty, as the Successor of that great Champion of German Liberty, *GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS*.

I purposely omit to enter upon what, they say, many reported for certain, and which, I must own, I thought I had good Reason to believe, *Viz.* That the first Mover of this Matter, either to or with the King of Sweden, was the French Ambassador, and that all the Envoys or Ministers of the Allies opposs'd it to the last — — — No doubt, IF IT WAS SO, it was done with the same View, *Viz.* This not in

Respect to that, not in Disrespect to the Protestant Religion, but with a View to the State of the present Confederacy —

The French push'd it with an Expectation, that this would embroil the Swede with the Emperor, and create a new War in the Bowels of Germany : The Confederates oppos'd it from a just Apprehension of those Consequences, which must at that time be fatal to the Grand Alliance, and not cause the Emperor to withdraw his Troops from Italy only, but oblige the Allies to carry their Troops a second Time into Germany to extinguish a War, that might otherwise perhaps embroil them with the Swede.

I shall not say, that the Swede was actually in a League, or had embrac'd the Interest of France in this, as some affirm, tho' I confess, their Reasons seem to me very strong — But this is certain, let the Congress for the Liberty of Protestants be what it will, to fall upon the Empire at that time, had been to fall upon the Confederacy, and the Swede had in that Case been as much our Enemy as the French — The Thing had however a very smooth Countenance, and deceiv'd Abundance of People, who were so pleas'd with the Reinstating the Silesian Churches, and the Swede espousing the Protestant Interest there, that they were falling into the Snare, and would have precipitated the whole Protestant Interest of Europe, which depended upon the Grand Alliance, to encourage this little Part of it.

Upon this Foot it was so general a Cry, that the Swede was the Champion of the Protestant Interest, and the Restorer of Religion, that we ignorantly gave him our Blessing, pray'd for his Success, and would needs have him go on to pull the Emperor to pieces, which had he done, as ill as we think, the Emperor had serv'd the Confederacy, the King of France would soon have pull'd all the rest to pieces ; and where then had been the Protestant Religion ?

That I was never of this deluded Judgment, this Paper shall loudly testify, which suffer'd the general Dislike for some Months, and not a little Reproach for speaking plain Truths, because at that time they did not touch your Senses. Nay, how was this poor

Author

Author bully'd by Foreign Envoys, and threatned with the King of Sweden's Resentment, as if the Subjects of England were to be seat, bound Hand and Foot, to satisfie the Pride and Passion of Foreign Princes? But Thanks be to Heaven, and a better Constitution English Liberty is, of another Stamp; I am not of the Family of Count Zabor, nor is the Queen of England to be insulted in that Manner.

Upon this Foot, I freely, *some call'd it boldly*, justify'd my Opinion and my Words too, and let the Foreigners know, I was ready to defend it by Law, which however they were wiser than to put me to the Trouble of.—

It was alledg'd, That I said, the King of Sweden was a *NOTHING-DOING Prince*, which however was false in Fact; and really I never had said the Words but thus.— That the *Swede* must have some other Design, than at that time appear'd, in lying still in *Saxony* a whole Summer with 50000 Men, or else he was the most *Nothing-doing Prince* in the World.

Indeed we expected, as the Disciples said of our *Saviour*— That he should have restor'd the Kingdom to *Israel*— I mean, that he

should have dipt into the grand Affair of Europe, viz. the War between *France* and the Confederates; but those that wish'd it, were ignorant; that if he had done so, it would not have been to our Advantage; and that this was one Obstacle in his way, viz. That he saw the Case too knotty for him to unravel in Favour of the *French*, without declaring himself against the Protestant Interest, and embroiling himself with a victorious Confederacy— And upon these Considerations, with some others less honourable, we think, he turn'd his Thoughts another way, viz. to the most fruitless, improbable, and, *if obtain'd*, most unprofitable Undertaking, that ever was attempted by any Prince in Europe— Whether the Sequel has not shewn, that in this also he has been a *NOTHING-DOING Prince*, let any Man determine.

I shall in my next a little further examine the Question, whether this Prince has been in the Interest of *France* or no, and whether these People, that have thought he had been one of Heaven's Champions in Favour of the Protestant Interest, have reckon'd without their Host or no?

## MISCELLANEA.

I have not of late troubled you with any more of my Notions about the *Palatines*. Your impolitick Humour has hitherto opos'd your Interest, and you have rejected all the Proposals of colonizing them in the Countries, and so that Matter is put into a new Method, tho' I must acknowledge it a Method the least profitable to us in general, as a Nation, and particularly hard upon the poor People themselves, I mean, that of dispersing and separating them here and there a Family, among the respective Parishes that can be prevail'd with to take them— And to prevail with them to take them, the Commissioners give a Premium, viz. of 5 d. per Head to the Parishes—I shall not enter into a Complaint in Behalf of the poor Strangers, that this separating and scat-

tering them is cruel to them both Body and Soul, as it scatters them upon the Face of the whole Country, secures them to be meer Cottagers, Hewers of Wood, and Drawers of Water, &c. for ever puts an End to all their Hopes of planting and industrious improving both us and themselves, deprives them of all publick Exercise of Religious Worship, till they shall learn the *English Tongue*, and effectually clinches down their Poverty in that scandalous Ignorance and Want of Instruction, which is the Reproach of the South Part of *Britain*, above all the Christian Nations of Europe at this Time— These are Hardships, I could find a great Deal of Room to enlarge upon.